



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: April 2020

Agenda Item: Glendive Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture Paddlefish Grant Committee

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background:

Montana statute (MCA 87-4-601) allows anglers to donate roe (eggs) from legally taken paddlefish from the Yellowstone River (Glendive to North Dakota state line) to a Montana nonprofit corporation to process, market, and sell as caviar. In 1990, the commission selected the Glendive Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture as the nonprofit corporation, and the department has renewed the chamber's permit since then. The revenue generated from the Paddlefish Roe Donation Program is divided between the chamber (70%) and the department (30%) pursuant to MCA 87-4-601 4(a). The chamber's share funds the paddlefish grant program, which finances historical, cultural, and recreational projects. The department's share benefits paddlefish management and research. Statute requires the commission to annually appoint an advisory committee, called the Paddlefish Grant Committee, to solicit and review grant applications and fund projects. By statute, the committee must consist of one member of the nonprofit organization, two local government representatives, and two representatives of area anglers (see chamber's recommendation letter). The committee is also required to notify the commission of its actions.

The chamber recommends that the commission appoint the following individuals to the 2020 Paddlefish Grant Committee:

- Mike Roe—Glendive Area Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture Member
- Kevin Dorwart—City of Glendive Director of Operations
- Tim Mort—Dawson County Fire Warden
- Al Aldinger—Retired Contractor
- James Thielman—Thielman Oil Productions Services, Inc. in Glendive

Public Involvement Process & Results:

Public involvement consists of presenting this recommendation to the commission in a public forum.

Alternatives and Analysis:

The commission could revoke the permit if the chamber has violated the permit conditions or is unable to continue administering the program. The commission could also ask for a new list of potential grant committee members. Either of these choices would delay implementation of the program in 2020. The department is prepared to extend the chamber's permit for 2020. The department recommends that the commission approve the paddlefish grant committee recommended by the chamber.

Proposed Motion:

I move that the commission approve the Paddlefish Grant Committee recommended by the Glendive Chamber of Commerce.